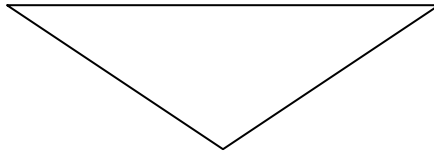


❧ Five Paragraph Essay ❧

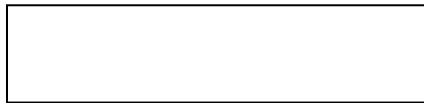
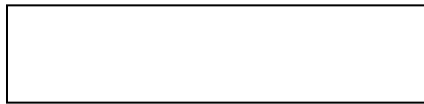
The five paragraph essay is a staple of middle school writing. This essay format is an effective way to organize any assignment that requires a student to present, explain, examine, or discuss material. The basic structure of the five paragraph essay is as follows:



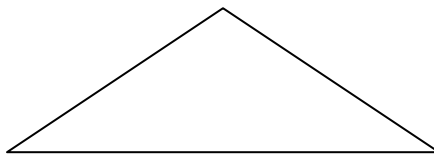
The first paragraph introduces the topic and narrows it to a specific focus or thesis. The thesis statement is often found at the end of the paragraph and summarizes the main argument of the paper.



The next three paragraphs make up the body of the essay. Each body paragraph contains a topic sentence that supports the thesis statement, provides evidence to back up the topic sentence, and then ends with a concluding or transition sentence.



The essay closes with a concluding paragraph that restates the thesis statement, summarizes the essay's major points, and allows the writer one last opportunity to make his/her point.



Introduction:

There are three purposes to an introduction. First, an introduction must grab the audience's attention. Next, it introduces the topic. Finally, it states the purpose or the thesis of the essay.

Body:

The purpose of the body paragraphs is to provide evidence that supports the topic. The body paragraphs do this by supplying supporting details such as facts, statistics, examples, quotations, or text references.

Conclusion:

The purpose of the conclusion is to restate and highlight the major ideas that were presented in the essay. It should not bring up any new questions or ideas. However, it should allow the writer one last opportunity to state an opinion and/or make any suggestions, recommendations or proposals.

Writing an Introduction:

Step 1- Attention Grabber:

Begin with a sentence that grabs your reader's attention. Some common attention grabbers include:

- A quote from a text or another source
- An intriguing question related to the subject
- An "Imagine" statement
- An interesting fact related to the subject

Step 2- Bridge:

In the second sentence you should take the audience from the attention grabber to the topic by making a connection. If you are writing about literature, the bridge should include the title and author.

Step 3- Summary:

Next, give a very brief introduction to the topic or a summary of the story or text being used (one or two sentences).

Step 4- Problem:

Explain the problem or topic that your essay will address.

Step 5- Thesis Statement:

Write your thesis statement. The thesis statement tells the reader what you are trying to prove in this essay. It states your point.

Step 6- Reread:

Reread your introduction to be sure that everything makes sense and flows together well. Remember that the reader should be able to follow your argument.

Writing a Body Paragraph:

Step 1- Topic sentence:

Write a topic sentence which states one key point or main idea that supports the thesis statement or argument.

Step 2- Support Details:

Provide specific details (examples, illustrations, evidence, quotations, plot references) that support your key point or prove that your topic sentence is true. Be sure to utilize the support formula:

- Set up the importance of the support detail
- Give the specific support detail
- Explain how the support detail validates your topic sentence.

Step 3- Concluding Sentence:

The last sentence in a body paragraph completes the paragraph. It returns the reader to the essay's thesis. It may also transition to the next body paragraph.

Writing a Conclusion:

Step 1- Restate Thesis:

In the first sentence, restate the thesis statement as a fact. Do not just copy the thesis statement from your introduction. You should rewrite the thesis in different words.

Step 2- Recap Main Points:

Next, recap your essay's key points in two or three sentences. Do not add any new information.

Step 3- Final Comment:

Make a final comment on the subject by writing a strong, effective message (*a "So What?" statement*) that the reader will remember. This is your last opportunity to present a powerful message.



5 Paragraph Essay Checklist

Introduction Paragraph:

- Grabber
- 3 main points to support thesis
- Thesis

3 Body Paragraphs:

- Topic Sentence (Each having a different and significant reason)
- Supporting Detail related to the writing task
- Explanation of the supporting detail
- Facts, opinions, or other prior knowledge

Conclusion Paragraph:

- Restate thesis.
- Summarize 3 main points
- A strong closing sentence that emphasizes your opinion

Content and Organization:

- 5 clearly indented paragraphs!
- Single focus on topic
- Clear transitions
- Supporting details that relevant to the writing task
- Sentences showing a variety of types, structure, and length
- Variety of sentence beginnings

Usage:

- Proper word usage
- Tense Agreement
- Modifiers

Mechanics:

- Punctuation
- Capitals
- Spelling

Bibliography/Works Cited:

- Use www.easybib.com or www.citationmachine.net
- Use examples below for how it should be formatted

Examples:

Kuttner, Robert. "Reasonable Doubts: The Growing Movement Against the Death Penalty." American Prospect 15.7 (7 Jul. 2004): A1-A23. SIRS Knowledge Source. Moorestown High School Library. 15 Mar. 2005 <<http://sks.sirs.com>>.

Thomas: Legislative Information on the Internet. 19 Jun. 2001. Lib. of Congress, Washington. 18 May 2002 <<http://thomas.loc.gov/>>.